

Subject: Chat with Scott Mintz

From: Scott Mintz <scott.w.mintz@gmail.com>

To: barriticus@gmail.com

Scott: Moving to Mexico?

me: most likely, but probably not until August or September if I do, and I'll have an internet connection

me: depends on various factors, such as if I need to be in NYC in August for book launch press, etc

me: I've lived there before as a freelancer, works well

Scott: Do you have friends or family in Mexico?

Scott: Got it.

me: it would also reduce my dependency on writing for outlets that I don't like as I can live much cheaper, and would in fact be able to contribute directly to the Africa fund with part of my surplus

me: my mom's family is from the border

me: and my grandma used to live in Guanajuato state

Scott: That makes a lot of sense then.

Scott: Hopefully we can put PPM in such a position that the demand on your surplus isn't greater than an amount you'd be willing/wanting to give anyway.

me: I imagine that won't be a problem, I'll have a lot more time to work on it very soon

me: and go after grants, donations, etc

me: we'll also have more people on board to help direct our various tasks

Scott: Yea, unfortunately the cost of living in NY is fairly high.

Scott: Yes, I'm looking forward to that.

Scott: Speaking of which I wanted to discuss with either you guys or the Blog in general some ideas I had for the network.

me: actually, Brooklyn isn't any more expensive than austin or Dallas, but I was distracted, and at any rate I like to keep low overhead

Scott: I'm fully aware that some if not all the ideas will be unacceptable, but I fill I wouldn't be doing my duty if I didn't share them.

me: of course, propose anything that comes to mind

Scott: Excessive dating is a distraction that I wish happened more often.

me: it's hard to avoid in New York when you're one of about seven straight males

Scott: I've never been to Dallas but I've been to Austin. I had a great time.

Scott: Clearly you have better luck than I do then.

me: yeah, I'll be in Austin next week, in fact plan to get some recruiting done there

Scott: By the way, I was watching something about Bushwhich (sp) being a major crime place on TV. I believe it was for prostitution.

Scott: Wick

me: Bushwick was one of the murder capitals of the nation just 15 years ago

me: now it's pretty decent

Scott: Glad to hear things have improved :)

me: but I still made fun of everyone there in a column I write for a local website, thereby starting an internet civil war. Then I got on a plane and left, lol

Scott: What can you do

me: start a bunch of trouble and then leave, apparently

me: there were over 120 angry comments on one website alone last time I checked

Scott: Nothing like good old fashioned bullying.

Scott: jk

me: 150 on another

Scott: that's impressive

me: I'd managed to recruit exactly two people among that useless self-absorbed population after making several efforts

Scott: I don't want to mention who, because well I'm not sure if it appropriate of me or not, but I know someone who in theory recruited clients as a result of online altercations that were made on a forum.

me: I'll bet; lots of e-rage out there

me: assuming this was a lawyer

Scott: no :)

me: is that someone you?

Scott: When I said appropriate, I don't know what my ethical and legal limitations are, but this person was an investment manager.

Scott: It seems forum readers interest in this person's services increased as a result of his firm stances and disagreements with other individuals.

me: very good

me: another new specimen of internet dynamic

Scott: certainly there is an internet aspect behind it especially in cases where a person is nothing more than a moniker

Scott: Whether or not you have any intentions of doing so, kindly do not attribute that particular dynamic to me if ever discussing it.

me: of course

me: anyway, I'm backlogged on internet dynamics that need to be written about as it is

me: and I'm already aware of things similar to what you mentioned, come to think of it anyway, and will use those as examples if necessary

Scott: thanks

Scott: appreciated

Scott: How are things coming with the Manifesto?

me: good, got to finish this next Skeptical Inquirer column and then I'll complete first draft and send it to you and Clark for thoughts

Scott: ok

Scott: good luck with that

me: If you want to discuss your new ideas, give me a ring later this evening, should be done

writing by then

me: I'm writing an open letter to religious congressmen demanding that they make preparations for the rapture and the War against the Beast

me: which I will follow up with phone calls

me: to about 300 elected officials

me: which I will record for purposes of hilarity

Scott: Okay, I may do just that to discuss

Scott: But I'll probably post the document on the blog as well.

me: perfect

me: also

Scott: Not to sound like a paranoid old man, but do you know your laws on recording conversations?

me: in order to decide any such matters

me: to some extent, it varies by state

Scott: yea

me: basically, I pronounce you, myself, and Clark to be a triumvirate until such time as the "republic" can be built

Scott: some i know consent of both parties are required while others only one party needs to know

me: any controversial issues can be decided by two of three votes

Scott: I'm okay with triumvirate as long as there are no attempts on my life

me: no promises, Crassus

me: I get to be Caesar though

Scott: then i demand constant bodyguards

me: Crassus and Pompey are up for grabs

Scott: and they must be loyal, not the kind that think for themselves

me: post an ad on craigslist in some southern state then

Scott: or will switch sides for a few shillings

Scott: haha

me: As I recall, the original triumvirate worked out quite well and ended with handshakes all around

Scott: I'm reading the wiki on crassus as we speak

me: spoiler: he was forced to drink molten gold and then died of natural causes

me: unless I am thinking of pompey

Scott: death by molten gold is a natural cause?

Scott: I'm okay with Crassus. He allegedly died in battle and then had molten gold poured into his mouth as a symbol of his greed.

me: it's a natural cause when you run around acting like Crassus

me: I recommend Commentaries of Caesar, which is of course not entirely objective but which at any rate is more objective than one might expect

me: when compared to reports by other historians

3 of 8 **Scott:** is it available on audio-tape?

Scott: jk

me: there are a bunch of people running around claiming that the fall of the Roman Empire bears profound lessons for the U.S. but those people don't know what they're talking about

Scott: I'm glad to hear that in some weird way.

me: there are of course some lessons, but any decline in the U.S. is based on largely different causes

me: you should be, Rome fell hard

me: still, half of it prospered for another six, seven hundred years

me: Byzantines

Scott: So far history has shown that all big powers come to an end, hopefully our demise will be less violent and not too soon.

me: well, largely, yes, but it depends on how one defines a power and a fall

Scott: all good questions to which i have no clear answer to

me: China is arguably a series of dynasties that provide a common thread of governance for four, five thousand years

me: leading up to the Mao dynasty

Scott: but by definition a dynasty has changed as we've become more global, no?

me: of course, and the main thrust of my intentions and emphasis...

me: involves that very idea

me: these are all increasingly obsolete institutions - nation-states

me: build by necessity of proximity, linguistics

Scott: don't make fun but I can't wait until we have credible evidence or experience what we know to be intelligent life outside of our planet

Scott: i foresee, optimistically and ideally, an end to bickering, etc.

me: I would imagine that the bickering will amplify to some extent. There are billions who will see intelligent life as a threat to their worldviews

Scott: instead of nation states, or countries, we'd become united as a planet-state

Scott: I would hope more optimistically and sadistically, that fear would act as a tool to unite

me: hopefully, but hopefully the correct sort of planet-state

me: we can see examples in history of unification of formerly adversarial populations in the face of greater enemies, of course

Scott: taking a page if you will from Watchmen

me: never got around to reading it

me: Reagan spoke on the issue twice

me: about how we would unify in the face of an outside threat

Scott: yes, the hope would be an ideally created planet-state rather than one that is bifurcated.

me: the thing is, though, that many would welcome a takeover by a superior alien civilization

Scott: I've never heard those speeches, but sounds like something I would be interested in hearing.

me: you can Youtube them

4 of 8 **me:** they are not particularly profound examples of rhetoric, of course

Scott: That's the plot line in the sci-fi show V (remake of an old movie).

me: note that one of the Rockefellers who just recently died spent quite a bit of money in the '90s investigating the possibility of recent visitations

me: he was close to the Clintons

Scott: however, in the case of V there is the dichotomy that their intentions are evil

me: yeah, I've read the plot on Wikipedia

me: you may be familiar with Stephen Hawking's recent warnings

Scott: Do you know offhand what what to look for in youtube? i.e. Reagan unification speech/

me: one of the few near-certainties in astrobiology is that other life would be either far, far advanced or microbial in nature

me: Reagan aliens

Scott: that's according to hawking's?

me: that's the consensus of pretty much every scientist who bothers with it (not as many as should)

me: it's simply a matter of statistics

Scott: well, hopefully they are advanced and kind enough to know if any of their by-products of living are toxic to human life

me: there is, however, another factor that may contradict that rule

me: which is that there may be a tendency of civilizations to discard corporeal existence, such that we would never find them

me: I have another hypothesis

me: which is that, as civilizations advance to a certain technology level, destructive power becomes more easily obtainable; this is born out by the example of nuclear proliferation and, now, nanotechnology

me: a centrally-controlled civilization might determine that the risks are too great to continue

me: despite the potential rewards

me: and consciously choose to place themselves under the control of sentient machines in order to ensure that technology develops no further

Scott: in some sci-fi that's generally referred to as ascension, where we essentially become energy

me: and thus there may be a number of small civilizations, relegated to a few planets, which have put themselves in tech stasis as a means of risk aversion

Scott: while I hear your second theory, it doesn't sound practical

me: of course, that puts them at the risk of predatory civilizations that may come across them

Scott: going back hundreds if not thousands of years, newer technologies were always risk factors

me: absolutely

Scott: i have no evidence to back this up, but i don't foresee a freeze on technological advancements

me: but we can define a point at which things become fundamentally different - the point at which the power to obliterate one's own planet becomes available enough that it is likely to

be used

me: neither do I

Scott: why stop there

Scott: what about the power to destroy universes

me: and in fact I prefer that we continue to approach the singularity as the rewards are of infinite value

me: that power doesn't seem to be deployed very often in our own universe, at least

Scott: agreed, we simply need to remain optimistic that there is a net positive

Scott: yes, but a hundred years ago, we didn't have the ability to destroy countries

me: I recently had a discussion with a brilliant fellow working for NASA in some capacity who is adamant that speed of light travel really is the likely limit

me: and let us hope it is

Scott: i don't see where the point of inflection can occur where we decide to stop

me: it would basically require a technocratic conspiracy/world takeover

me: which is an unlikely prospect

Scott: agreed and as you say, for the best

Scott: so, now warp 2.0?

Scott: no

me: speed of light is enough for us to colonize what we need to colonize

Scott: does that preclude folds in space i.e. wormholes/

me: I don't believe so, but I am a bit rusty on wormholes and the theoretical uses we may end up having for them

me: most likely we would have to create our own wormholes

me: existing ones are not practical to reach

me: a related concept

me: is that we ought not to advertise our existence

Scott: i didn't even know we knew of an existing wormhole?

Scott: temporarily? permanently?

me: I believe their existence have simply been deduced

me: another problem in reaching them, of course

Scott: got it, and makes sense, i have a weird feeling have a wormhole in our backyard would be interesting

me: I'd say that's a pretty reasonable feeling

Scott: speaking of technologies of advancement, something that would have profound affects, would be an improve way to transfer knowledge.

Scott: plus a harddrive that is less prone to forgetfulness

me: essentially, our project is a step in that direction, if only rudimentary

Scott: I have an unsubstantiated theory that retention of knowledge separates the very, very smart from the genius.

Scott: Fully agreed, which is one of the many reasons I am passionate about the project.

me: those techs will come of their own accord and are already on their way, from the direction of Tokyo's university system

me: incidentally, I had a conversation once with a brilliant Japanese research scientist who is

working on one of the most potentially important developments currently in play

me: about two years ago

me: they had managed to have participants move a cursor on a computer without any head gear or devices

me: simply by thought emissions

me: which, despite the assumptions of certain of my skeptical colleagues, do exist

Scott: that's pretty cool

Scott: i knew it could be done using devices, but the implications are that brainwaves are wireless

me: at any rate, in terms of our own contributions to this century, we can be of invaluable assistance to the extent that we can devise a more perfect collaborative tool

me: or schematic, rather

me: you've seen the inefficiencies that exist within every organizationn

me: some of these are easily remedied

me: some are more challenging

me: but as I noted in that blog post the other night

me: we must pay close attention to how we proceed, what works, what gets results, what ensures the highest probability of success

me: I suspect that we will make particular progress in this by examining the worst methods of collaboration

Scott: like you said, it's not easy to discover

Scott: some instances require different mediums of communication

Scott: certain people have innate preferences

me: I am fortunate to have accompanied my father and uncle to Africa when I was 17 when they were working for some damned fool Pentacostal financier on his quest to establish a business empire

me: if they had succeeded, I would have learned a few thinhs

Scott: there are the psychological implications as well such as dismissing certain information while retaining those that support your own views

me: but as they failed epically, went broke, had their passports seized, lost their equipment to corruption, blew their funds, I learned quite a bit more

me: that's absolutely true

Scott: i'm optimistic we can learn a lot, but I think more of what will be gained will have to be done through trial and error (scientifically if you will)

Scott: sorry to hear that about your "adventures", at least some good did come out of it

me: we'll have to take it step by step, accumulate observations, and only adapt new techniques after, as you say, trial and error and scientific process

me: which is why I plan on implementing a variety of test methods by which two or more participants will be given tasks to be performed under various differing circumstances/ schematics/limitations

Scott: the psychology of organizations is certainly a relevant topic for all facets of life as well as informational systems that improve the quality and quantity of "global" knowledge

me: we'll also be contacting researchers who have done studies pertinent to our goals to see what has already been determined regarding the psychological aspects of such things

me: absolutely

Scott: that's a good idea, but do you plan on accounting for the differences between 2 people? maybe a slightly larger sample size?

me: oops, gotta run, I'll be available by phone later

me: yes, we'll have numerous tests to provide for those differences

me: or, rather, to account for them

Scott: got it,

Scott: nice chatting and i'll post something to the blog soon.

me: word, later